

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



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ACORN

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the Honourable David Tsubouchi, Minister, is gratefully acknowledged.

**Cover: The old brewery in Neustadt, Ontario, is one of many
wonderful sites to visit during the 2003 ACO Conference, to be
held in Walkerton, April 11-13.**

Photo: T. Wegg Photography

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From the Editor

Finance Minister John Manley chose Heritage Week to bring down his 2003 budget on Febru-

ary 18. Appropriately, then, the Minister's speech included the following announcement: "We are also today investing in measures to promote Canadian culture, including the preservation of our heritage properties, which the Minister of Canadian Heritage has supported so passionately." In the televised budget speech, Mr. Manley turned at this point to acknowledge Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, who sat beaming as her colleagues gave her a round of applause.

Was this the long-awaited announcement of federal funding for the fledgling Historic Places Program? Background papers released with the budget provided a few more details: "The Government is committed to the development of initiatives in support of the restoration and preservation of Canada's built heritage. To this end, the Department of Canadian Heritage has been developing a national register, conservation standards and a certification process in respect of restoration expenditures. In order to provide financial incentives to the private sector to preserve heritage properties, the Government of Canada will create a three-year contribution program of \$10 million per year to compensate businesses for a portion of the costs incurred in restoring heritage buildings."

At this time it is unclear what form this "contribution program" of \$30 million over three years will take (tax incentives, grants, etc.). The federal government may use an upcoming Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Culture meeting (scheduled for late March) to announce specific details of the financial incentive. Readers should also keep an eye out for related Historic Places legislation this spring. The legislation would focus on "putting the federal house in order" (including National Historic Sites and federally owned heritage buildings) and establishing the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

Dan Schneider

How I Spend My Time

Chris Borgal, ACO President



There are many things required of the President of the ACO, not the least of which are the meetings with government that ensure the message of our part of the

heritage community is getting through. Of those I have attended in the past few months, arguably the most important were the round-table sessions with the Minister of Culture regarding proposed changes to the Ontario Heritage Act. The introduction in 1974 of the Act placed the province in the forefront of jurisdictions across North America. Unfortunately, that is where it stopped with the result that the position of Ontario has become dead last with the sorriest record of heritage preservation in North America. Indeed, over the past decade – and with the reduction in grants and accompanying controls by the provincial government – Ontario has seen as much as 25 per cent of the *designated* historic structures de-designated and lost to demolition. Hopefully with enactment of new legislation, this will change.

Just last week, I was a part of a pre-budget consultation and had the opportunity to express concerns personally to the Minister of Finance. Around the same table were individuals who represented various arts group fundraisers and developers. Universally, they pleaded for more funds for their respective arts organizations yet, in the midst of it, not one talked about the culture of Ontario specifically. So the ACO was able to re-direct some of the conversation. I was able to put the issue of *Ontario's* culture forward and state quite emphatically that the arts organizations in the Province have universally ignored architecture – which by all definitions is an art and the highest expression of any individual culture. The destruction of Ontario's architectural treasures has been all but completely ignored by the arts community.

A modest improvement, which could achieve

great results, would be the re-introduction of designated property grants as a provincial rather than local policy. Such grants do not have to be large – their benefit in the past was the controls and education to property owners with which they were accompanied. The present Trillium fund grants have far too few controls with respect to heritage issues with the result that we are now seeing mistakes in implementation for public and cultural sites as prevailed over 25 years ago. Like Sisyphus and his rock, which never quite reached the top of the mountain, heritage makes gains in Ontario and then sees them removed by the caprice of government policy. This is a travesty, of course. How can any community maintain its culture in the face of such indifference by its leaders? We *must* be more pro-active.

A classic example of how our culture is being eroded is in the breakup of the symbols of our communities. The word “civilization” comes from the root “civitas” which means city-state. The symbols of such a state are the institutions of which it is comprised. The public face of those institutions has been primarily architectural for several thousand years. Yet under the current government we have seen the gutting of community after community and the loss of the symbols of each in the closure of schools, hospitals and municipal buildings. The resulting dislocation creates a society of consumers whose only notion of community is the trip in the car to the big box store in the suburbs. All over Ontario we see the decline in main streets and community identity.

One of the key examples is the closure of schools. One school I have visited was closed last year and was located centrally in a community of 15,000. The school, constructed in 1906, is still in excellent condition despite being empty over the winter. It is a place of memory for many of the members of the town and a link to past. Yet the school board, despite protests, closed the building and moved the students – in buses – to a new school where they are now being schooled, not in proper classrooms, but portable units, which have taken over

the schoolyard and crowded the existing facilities. If this were not “bone headed” enough, the real joke is that the 1906 building cannot be closed – the computer hub for the whole system is located in the basement and the cost of relocation is too expensive! And what kind of a message does such a change send to the young in terms of respect for the past and the community that nurtures them? I must stop ranting...

At the board level we welcome Clara So as treasurer and Margaret Hill back as our secretary. With her experience as an accountant, Clara brings excellent credentials to the position of treasurer. Margaret has been a long-time member of the ACO and brings us some of that vital “corporate memory” that no organization can live without.

Finally, the conference is coming up in April. Please make plans to attend! The topic of old town halls is important in the context of my current message, and the location – in the old Town Hall, now a building owned by the ACO – is Walkerton, possibly the greatest symbol to us all of ill-considered cut-backs by government. And yes, I can say that I have “taken the waters” there recently and I remain in excellent health!

Dinner 2002 Celebrates 70 Years of Architectural Conservation!

Dianna Cook

It was fun. It raised funds. And it raised the bar for future events. The seventh annual ACO fundraising dinner in Toronto on November 2, 2002 was both critically and fiscally successful. Held at the University Club of Toronto, an architectural gem inspired by the rich legacy of the London Clubs, old world warmth and tradition greeted the evening’s guests on arrival. Completed in 1929, the University Club is now

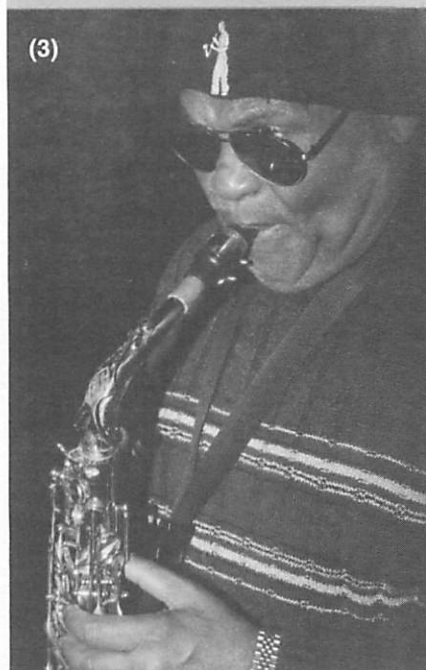
considered one of the finest examples of Georgian-style architecture in Canada.

Guests attended from Windsor, Port Hope, Bayfield, Goderich, Kitchener, Cambridge, Sarnia, St. Thomas, St. Catharines, London, Simcoe, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Toronto, and elsewhere and revealed their generosity by purchasing auction items as diverse as an evening on the set of The Food Network’s popular cooking show, *Christine Cushing Live*, a weekend for four in the Muskokas, another weekend for four at The Farm UpCountry, including a seven-course Victorian dinner, a spa treatment and hair styling pamper package, a six-pack of guest speaker Michael Prue’s personally labeled, hand-signed, home-produced wine, a Stratford weekend for two including tickets to a Stratford Festival performance, dinner, and accommodation, and a signed Douglas Cardinal architectural sketch. Raffle sales, bar sales, donations, and the unprecedented generosity of corporate contributors rounded out the evening’s revenue for a grand total of almost \$26,000!

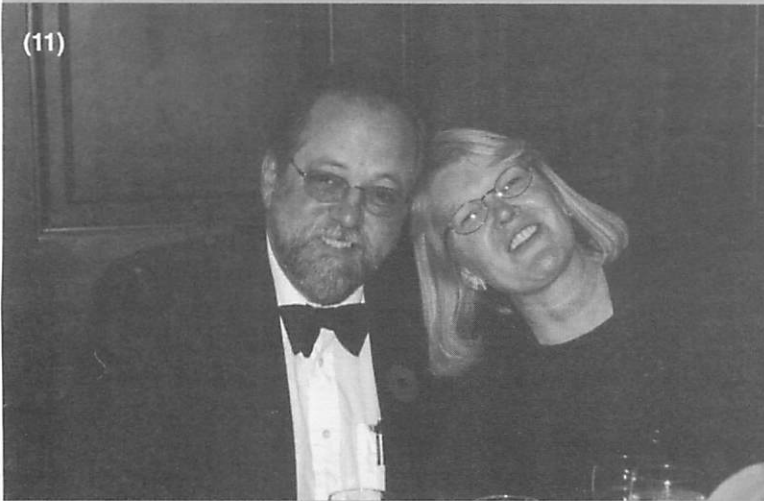
The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Sandy Jobin-Bevans, a recent alumnus of the Second City Toronto Mainstage Company, with whom he won three Canadian Comedy awards for sketch and improv performance. Competition for the spotlight was provided by the energetic and entertaining Ross Robinson, the evening’s official auctioneer, and guest speaker Michael Prue’s impromptu and equally entertaining auctioneering. Three youthful string players of the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music provided reception entertainment of a more talented and classical kind!

As guests moved from the reception in the Club’s library to the dining room, an informal fashion show of tasteful and mostly second-hand attire supplied by three vintage clothiers added a days-gone-by elegance to the cheerful and noisy ambience. The engaging models were accompanied by the soulful tunes of a former big-band saxophone player. To add to the evening’s distinction,

(continued on page 9)



(1) Master of Ceremonies Sandy Jobin-Bevins, (2) Tom Cosbey, Emma Quackenbush, Basil Theordory of the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, (3) Karl Bryan, (4) Ipek Kabatas, (5) Kristian Clarke, Joanne Mailloux, (6) Auction display, (7) John Rutledge, John Rutledge Architect, Goderich, (8) Professor Larry Richards, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto, Dianna Cook, GM, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



(9) Robert Weiler, Anne Robinson, Richard Malick, (10) Alan Seymour, *Chair, PreservationWorks!*
 (11) Robert Shipley, Judi McIntyre, (12) Reception, (13) Pat and Ben Rosebrugh

DINNER 2002

Thank You!

Corporate support for the **Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner** was unprecedented and reflects a new commitment to explore and to grow corporate interest in the Conservancy's activities. Corporate funds development is essential to the growth of the organization and without the contributions of the companies listed below, Dinner 2002 would not have been the success it was. Bravo! Their confidence in the ACO has been inspiring.

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More than 25% of the evening's revenue was a result of the collective generosity of 52 auction item donors. The auction income target of \$5,000 was exceeded because of their confidence in the ACO. The following individuals and businesses, listed in no particular order, deserve our gratitude and our recognition.

*Douglas Cardinal
Marjorie Harris
David & Ed Mirvish
The Farm UpCountry (Janet & David
Fayle)
'Oh Canada Eh?' Dinner Show
(Ross & Anne Robinson)
The Little Inn of Bayfield
Stratford Festival
Rundles, Stratford
Marten Arts Inc, Bayfield
Creekside Estate Winery
Christopher Borgal
Ontario Heritage Foundation
David Andrew Larsen Photography
Elio DelCol
Drew Ellwood, Zedo Zoo Ltd.
Park Hyatt Toronto
Cathy Nasmith & Robert Allsopp*

*Peter E. Snyder
Ron Brown
ACO North Waterloo Region Branch
Brian Greers Tin Ceiling, Kitchener
Green Gables Guest House, Kitchener
Sugar & Spice Chocolates, Bayfield
Shared Time, Bayfield
A1 Antiques and Used Furniture
ACO Port Hope Branch
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Femme Coiffure & Spa
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Boudoir
Anything Grows, Stratford
Village Studios, Stratford*

*Clifford Masonry Limited
River Breeze Bed & Breakfast,
Kitchener
Walper Terrace Hotel, Kitchener
Paul Puncher Casuals, Waterloo
A Night on Brunswick, Stratford
Christine Cushing Live
Patricia Malicki
Book City, The Annex
Niagara Helicopters Ltd.
Niagara Whirlpool Jet Boat
Sea Cloud Bed & Breakfast,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Staples Business Depot
Michael Prue
The Village Bookshop, Bayfield
Dianna Cook
Silver Creek Bed &
Breakfast, Walkerton
ACO South Bruce Grey Branch*

A stellar performance by auctioneer **Ross Robinson**, with the impromptu assistance of **Michael Prue**, our guest speaker, contributed enormously to the success of the auction.

DONORS

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William J. Moffet
Mertins Architects
Paul Didur Architect

VINTAGE CLOTHIERS

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Sweet Trash
Cabaret

MODELS

Ipek Kabatas
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Joanne Mailloux
Kristian Clarke
Megan MacKenzie
Molly-Mae MacKenzie
Kirsten MacKenzie

MAKE-UP

Tracy Tronchin

ARCHITECTURAL MODELS

Amy Choy
Peter McCann,
Architectural Models Inc.
Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Design,
University of Toronto

PHOTOGRAPHER

Anthony Palmer

VOLUNTEERS

Colleen Humer
Sandra Richards
Yasmine Rajabali
Marcia Cuthbert
Amy Choy
Henry Chan

Dinner would have been a little less refined without the generous donation of the table wines. Thank you to Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery, Lakeview Cellars, and Creekside Estate Winery.



And last, but definitely not least, thank you to Melissa Tinsley for donating the Dinner program design and to Q-Print for its donation of the program printing.

2003

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Call for Nominations
by June 30, 2003

The WOOD WORKS Awards program recognizes contributions to excellence in wood design and engineering, value added manufacturing, and community leadership among others.

The 2003 WOOD WORKS Awards Gala is being held on October 16, 2003, at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario.

To nominate someone you know, or even yourself, for these awards, visit www.woodworksawards.com or call 1-866-886-3574 for more information.

WOOD WORKS AWARDS GALA

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dinner tables were creatively decorated with architectural models donated by the University of Toronto, by an architectural modeling firm, and by a local Toronto architecture student. Draping black tulle and green ivy brought from Bayfield's Lake Huron shores added to the unique effect.

The response to Dinner 2002 from guests to donors was overwhelmingly positive. The Conservancy's Board of Directors was well represented; oxymoronicly, President Christopher Borgal even had been willingly coerced to donate his voice for a song or two. An enthusiastic and well-deserved gratitude is due all of those who participated in the seventh annual fundraising dinner and who ushered in the seventh decade of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Churches In Peril – The Courts To the Rescue?

André Chenier

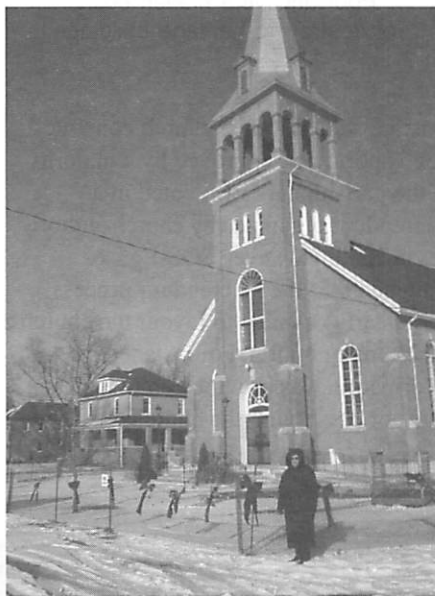
In the last issue of ACORN, Pat Malicki, President of the Windsor Region Branch of the ACO, presented an excellent summary of the situation in the Municipality of Lakeshore in Essex County, where two century-old churches have been slated for demolition by the Diocese of London. Subsequent to the publication of that article, proponents of the conservation of the churches working under the title of SOS-Églises received numerous donations and expressions of support from all across the province.

As a member of the SOS-Églises workgroup, I have been invited to provide additional information about the situation.

Both of those churches, Annonciation in Pointe-aux-Roches (Stoney Point) and St-Joachim in the village of the same name, are part of the rapidly vanishing visual legacy of the 300 year-old French-

Canadian community in Southwestern Ontario. The fact that these two French-Canadian communities are located nearly 1,000 kilometres from Quebec is evidence of the historic presence of French-Canada throughout Canada. Since their churches are a legacy of the direct descendants of the inhabitants of Fort Pontchartrain (now Detroit), we could consider them to be reminders of an important part of our national history, that of New France – whose territory extended to the heart of the American continent, and included, of course, much of present-day Ontario.

While the construction of the churches is associated with the French-Canadian community, an increasing number of



St. Joachim decorated
for Christmas by anonymous fans
Photo: André Chenier

English-speaking people have established themselves in the area and have joined the parish over the years, to the point where most services and parish activities are now held in English. SOS-Églises is composed of members of both cultural communities who are working hand-in-hand to protect a common heritage.

In addition to their patrimonial and contemporary value for the community, the church buildings themselves have

enough points of interest to keep them out of our local landfill! Both illustrate the strong Québec influence on church architecture in the region. Annonciation church, built in 1905, has a larger size "twin" in Bécancour, Québec. Both buildings were designed by church architect Louis Caron of Nicolet. It is interesting to note that the church in Bécancour was declared a historic monument in 1962.

St-Joachim was designed and built one hundred and twenty years ago by the parishioners themselves. Of more local inspiration, it has a simple Romanesque style with details borrowed from other churches from the region. An interesting aspect of the design and construction of the church is that barn-building skills and techniques were used by the builders. The main beams came from 300 year-old oak trees found nearby. After completion in 1882, the locals contacted the Bishop of London to inform him that the community now had a church and to please send them a French-speaking priest, which he did. The village/parish of St-Joachim was born.

In the fall of 2002, legal action had to be undertaken to stop the demolition of the St-Joachim church, which had already begun. Five individual members of SOS-Églises hired the Ottawa law firm that had successfully stopped the closing of Hôpital Montfort, the only French-language hospital in Canada west of Quebec. In their first appearance in front of a Superior Court of Ontario judge, the lawyers obtained a court order suspending the demolition permit for the St-Joachim church that the Diocese of London had received from the Municipality of Lakeshore. The suspension was granted in order to protect the church pending the outcome of planned legal action against the municipality. The intent of the legal action is to cancel the demolition permit and obtain historical designation for the church.

The SOS-Églises claim is that the municipality did not consider the impact of its decision on the local official language minority community when it did not grant historical designation to the St-

Joachim church, and when it issued a demolition permit. Consideration of the needs of the official language minority communities is a constitutional obligation that was reaffirmed in the Montfort case. The municipality did not actually refuse to grant the designation. Instead, it adopted a procedure whereby only owners of buildings could submit applications for historical designation. This effectively ensured the demolition of the churches since they are owned by the Diocese of London, which wants to tear them down.

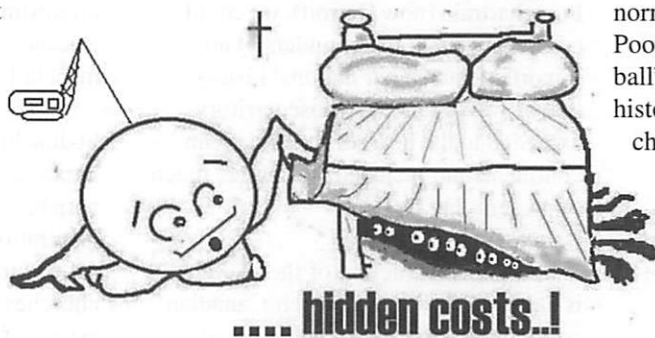
Because of the official language minority dimension of this court action, the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada has requested to be a participant in the proceedings on the side of the five applicants. The Diocese of London's law firm is also participating, but on the side of the municipality.

At the December 5, 2002 hearing, the Superior Court judge decided to refer the case to the Divisional Court for reasons of judicial jurisdiction. The Divisional Court meets at scheduled times, and it is not expected that the case will be heard before May.

Unfortunately, the day before the judge suspended the demolition permit (November 1, 2002), the large central window of St-Joachim was removed and partially destroyed by the demolition crew, exposing the interior of the church to the elements. The judge asked (but did not order) the Diocese to ensure that the interior of the church be protected until the legal proceedings were concluded. Since the next trial date was scheduled in the following two weeks, it was considered sufficient to simply cover the opening with a tarp. With the referral of the hearings to the spring of 2003, there is concern that this protection is insufficient.

Diocesan plans call for replacing the

village churches with what they call a "church complex" to house the new, clustered parish composed of the original three parishes in Pointe-aux-Roches, Comber and St-Joachim. This "complex" would be located outside the villages, in a field a few kilometres from Comber. It



Poof uncovers hidden costs of destroying heritage buildings

must be said that the "church construction" option was approved by a majority of the parishioners who voted in a referendum organized by church authorities in 2000. However, SOS-Églises contends that the referendum process was clearly oriented to favour the church replacement option. For instance, no information was provided on the advantages of preserving the churches. There

Églises on the advantages of restoring the existing churches.

In the last year, SOS-Églises has been mailing information bulletins in both official languages to every household in Pointe-aux-Roches, St-Joachim and Comber. A little character called Poof normally adorns the top of the flyers. Poof is a caricature of a little "wrecking ball" that refuses to destroy valuable historical buildings such as old village churches. So he joined SOS-Églises!

In the illustration accompanying this article, we see Poof uncovering a lot of hidden costs associated with the demolition of historical buildings. "Hidden Costs" was the theme of that particular flyer.

Some time ago, a Comber businessman gave the Diocese a piece of agricultural land for the construction of the church complex. A rezoning application was submitted to the municipality by the Diocese to change the zoning designation from agricultural to institutional. At the municipal public hearing attended by 250 people (mostly pro-conservation), members of SOS-Églises and many others made presentations to municipal council opposing the zoning change.

Council has not yet made a decision on the matter. A second public hearing is to be held on February 10, 2003.

It is important to know that SOS-Églises is not opposed to the construction of another church, if and when such a project is warranted. Our position is simply that the parish already has all the facilities it needs for the foreseeable future. The fact that two of those facilities have heritage significance makes it even more important not to abandon them.

Another important development in the situation is the intervention of the ACO's President, Christopher Borgal. At the request of Pat Malicki, the Diocese granted permission for Mr. Borgal to inspect the two churches. He



Interior of Annonciation Church
Photo: André Chenier

is no doubt that, if another referendum were held today, the results would be very different now that parishioners have been much better informed by SOS-



Ronald Caza, lawyer for SOS-Églises, meets the media

Photo: André Chenier

presented his conclusions in a strongly worded report in which he recommended that the buildings be restored. Generally speaking, Mr. Borgal agreed with the data contained in a report prepared two years ago for the Diocese by an architectural firm on the extent of repairs needed to restore the churches. Mr. Borgal pointed out that the earlier report had not recommended demolition. In his opinion, the demolition decision was based on political, not architectural considerations.

The Windsor Region Branch of ACO sent a copy of that report to the Bishop, as well as all the local media. It received some press, including interviews with Ms. Malicki.

Obviously, members of SOS-Églises were thrilled to learn that their "common sense" appreciation of the situation was fully supported by an expert of the stature of Mr. Borgal. With the permission of the Windsor Region Branch, SOS-Églises mailed the "Borgal Report" to every household in the villages of St-Joachim, Pointe-aux-Roches and Comber just before Christmas. We hear that it provided material for interesting and lively family dinner table discussions!

The 30 or so members of the SOS-Églises workgroup were greatly touched by the outpouring of support it received from other communities through the ACO's outreach activities. Each letter from individuals and groups was read aloud at our first 2003 meeting. It was a very emotional moment and a tremendous kick-off to our "New Year" activities. To all of you who took the time to write to

the Bishop and to us, thank you. If only you had been there to see the impact of your beautiful words of encouragement!

Thank you also to the many who provided us with financial help. Needless to say, this is greatly appreciated. While we are very confident of the positive outcome of our court action, nothing is certain in matters like this except one thing: the lawyers are expecting to be paid! Although we have received much help, the legal costs are mounting. Donations can be sent care of ACO Windsor Region Branch, Box 911, St-Joachim, Ontario N0R 1S0.

I conclude this update of our activities with an expression of sincere apprecia-



David Tremblay, SOS-Églises leader, leads a discussion

Photo: André Chenier

tion for the invaluable ongoing assistance the ACO is providing us through its Windsor Region Branch.

Elizabethville House Finds New Start in Port Hope

Selena Forsyth

William Palmer was born in 1789 and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1797. Both from well-known farming families, they were original settlers in the hamlet of Elizabethville in Hope Township near Port Hope.

The Palmers, who had two sons, Joshua



SOS-Églises holds a press conference in the snow

Photo: André Chenier

and Jules, were obviously very successful farmers because their second house, built much sooner than usual by a farmer in those days, was also very elaborate. In the early 1840s most houses were post and beam and had clapboard exteriors. The Palmers built their very elegant house with a lath and pebble-stone stucco finish. Not only were they wealthy enough to afford the necessary mason and plasterer, the fine, granular pebbles were imported. The house was of unusual proportions and definitely above average for its era. In the 1860s a "tail" section was added.

It is thought that William became a blacksmith later in life; his sons were certainly blacksmiths and listed as such in the 1851 Registry. Not long ago, bills to the Palmer boys, dating from the 1870s from blacksmith suppliers in Cobourg and Lindsay, were found in the walls of the house. If it weren't for Pete and Jane Rumgay, and perhaps some divine intervention, they would not have been found. In fact, the house would be gone.

Elizabeth died in 1866 and William in 1873. The house passed down through Joshua and Jules and their families, and was finally owned by Pat (Stanley) Palmer. It had been empty for two years and he passed it on to his nephews Shawn and Kyle Clowe. Kyle wanted to tear the house down and build a bungalow. The Hope Township Fire Department was only too happy to comply; they would have burned it down for practice.

Pete and Jane heard about the possible burn-down and made an offer.

Dear Friend of Ontario's Heritage:

I am pleased to invite you to Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton, to the 2003 Conference and AGM of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

The conference this year will focus on Town Halls and Market Squares. Victoria Jubilee Hall is a fitting venue for the talks. Built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, it served as Walkerton's Town Hall until 1996. In 1997 the building was slated for demolition, until the ACO purchased the building in order to save it. Since then, renovations have restored most of the building, and upgraded other parts.

Victoria Jubilee Hall's three-storey stone and yellow brick facade has always been one of the jewels of the main street. The bell tower can be seen as one enters the town from the north, east or west. Restored in 1999, the cupola contains the 1870 bell used to mark many events in the town's history.

The building has served many uses over the years from fire hall, police station, meeting place, dance hall, community centre and municipal office to home for two generations of care takers and their families. The most notable interior feature is the Opera Hall, where the conference will take place.

In the last few years with municipal amalgamations, many new municipalities have acquired facilities that are surplus to their needs. In other situations, as towns have grown they have found that they need more space. The challenge for many Town Halls and Market Squares has been finding new uses and improving accessibility.

For communities embarking on downtown revitalization plans, these buildings and public spaces are central. In some cases they have been neglected as malls and arenas moved people away from the town centres.

The series of talks at the 2003 Conference will examine Town Halls and Market Squares in Cobourg, Toronto, Walkerton, Walkerville and Woodstock. What has been done to revitalize them? How have they reinvented themselves?

On the Saturday evening of the Conference, the Gala Dinner will be in the Bruce Room of the Hartley Hotel. This 1870 building sits at the main intersection in town and has long been a landmark in the area. The dinner speaker will talk about the changes to the Ontario Heritage Act. This should be an interesting and timely talk. Details will be added to the web site as available (www.bmts.com/~jubilee).

On Sunday the Architectural Conservancy will hold its Annual General Meeting in the morning. In the afternoon, for anyone interested, the South Bruce Grey Branch will run a tour of Neustadt, a picturesque village with early stone buildings. We will visit the traditional brewery, and John Diefenbaker's Home. Cost will be based on response. Please indicate on the registration form if you are interested.

Delegates are also invited to stay for an extra evening, to enjoy a performance by the Waterloo Police Chorus, at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening, in the warm acoustics and ambiance of the Opera Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you in Walkerton!

Henry Simpson
President
South Bruce Grey Branch



Town Hall, Paisley, Bruce County
Photo: T. Wegg Photography



Fieldstone farmhouse,
Carrick Township, Bruce County
Photo: T. Wegg Photography

Town Halls and Market Squares

Past, Present and Future Roles

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Annual Conference

April 11, 12 and 13, 2003 in Walkerton, Ontario

ACO Annual General Meeting on April 13, 2003

Friday, April 11	7 pm to 9 pm	Registration and Opening Reception
Saturday, April 12	8 am to 9 am	Conference Registration
	9 am to 5 pm	Conference
	6 pm to 7 pm	Reception
	7 pm to 10:00	Banquet
Sunday, April 13	9:30 am to 10:30 am	Presidents Meeting
	10:30 am to 11:30 am	ACO Annual General Meeting
	11:30 am to 1 pm	Brunch

Advance Registration

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Conference

Cost per Person (includes Reception Friday night and Saturday lunch)	Number Attending	Total
\$75 for ACO members		\$
\$85 for non-members		\$
\$25 for full-time students		\$
\$10 Lunch on Saturday for none registered partner		\$

Dinner Saturday Evening

\$35 per person		\$
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Sunday Afternoon Tour and Evening Concert

Afternoon Tour Depending on Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Neustadt	Cost to be determined based on numbers
Sunday Evening Concert <input type="checkbox"/>	Waterloo Police Choir #	each \$12 add to Total Amount

Payment Options

Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card Card#: _____	Expiry Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (made payable to ACO South Bruce Grey Branch) TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____	

Mail	email	Fax
1. Complete Registration Form 2. Send payment and form to ACO South Bruce Grey Box 369, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0	1. Complete Registration Form 2. Email form to jubilee@bmts.com 3. Payment via Credit Card or Cheque	1. Complete Registration Form 2. Fax form to 519-881-2483 3. Payment via Credit Card or Cheque

For additional information, please call 519-881-2826 or www.bmts.com/~jubilee
Late registration (after April 4) - \$85 members, \$95 non-members



The Elizabethville house before its disassembly and move to Port Hope
Photo courtesy of Pete and Jane Rumgay

Shawn's and Kyle's mother, Jan Clowe, was born in the house and she really wanted it to be saved. The family had a meeting and the decision was made: Pete and Jane Rumgay became the proud owners of a magnificent 1840s house in Elizabethville, but it had to be moved.

The Rumgays wanted to move it to Port Hope. It took them six months to take the house apart; every board was numbered, every piece of the 1840s moulding and trim accounted for, the double front door and every one of the eleven six over six windows were safe, albeit in need of a great deal of "TLC".

Why did Peter and Jane take on such a project? Because they had never disassembled a house and restored it and it made for a singular challenge. But mostly because they cared; every historic building saved means our heritage is further protected and Pete and Jane are passionate about our heritage.

The rebuilding of the house, featured on the Port Hope House Tour last fall, is well on its way to completion. It looks magnificent. William and Elizabeth Palmer must be smiling.

LACAC Survey Results

The Ministry of Culture has recently released the results of its 2001/2002 LACAC Survey. The survey was designed to provide a snapshot of how Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACACs) are operating in Ontario. LACACs, now called "Municipal Heritage Committees" following the recent changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, are volunteer committees established under the Act by municipal councils to advise them on designation and other heritage matters.

The survey provides a useful snapshot of the general structure and operational characteristics of Municipal Heritage Committees, the resources the committees have at their disposal, and their challenges and achievements. These results will help to inform the Ministry's broader policy and program development, as well as the work of Provincial Heritage Organizations including the ACO. If you would like to receive a copy of the survey report, please contact:

Heather Thomson
 Municipal Heritage Committee Advisor
 Ministry of Culture
 400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9
 Tel: (416) 314-7145
 Fax: (416) 314-7790
 Email: heather.thomson@mczcr.gov.on.ca

NEWS FROM OUR BRANCHES

North Waterloo Region

We had a successful Christmas Party at a refurbished inn in the hamlet of Maryhill. The former Inn is used as a Bed and Breakfast and the interior has been very thoughtfully and beautifully done. We had a good attendance with 30 people present.

We are now busy getting ready for the annual Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Showcase which will be held on Saturday, February 15 at Fairview Mall. Usually about 25 groups display various things. This year our focus is on Mills of Waterloo County.

Bob Rowell has built an HO scale model grist mill and scenery to go with it. It has a mill pond, dam and mill race as well as a working mill wheel run by a small motor inside the mill basement. The display will also have a map marking many of the old mill sites on it and some notes about early mills. This map was done by our executive member Herb Whitney. Another executive member, Joyce Arndt, is working on a handout about mills. Brian Dietrich will be producing all the signage for the display.

We have been working with many groups getting ready for the area's first ever Doors Open on Sept 20. The County/Region is also celebrating its

150th Anniversary this year.

We hope to participate in Architecture Week 2003 that runs from September 28 to October 4.

We are into our membership renewal campaign at this time and it is going quite well.

Marg Rowell

Windsor Region

The issue of the churches in Pointe-aux-Roches and St. Joachim continues to occupy much of our time. André Chenier of SOS-Églises will bring you up-to-date in the article elsewhere in this issue (see "Churches in Peril – The Courts to the Rescue?" in this issue).

Photo Contest

Rina Guarascio and her committee are working hard on the fifth annual *Get the Picture!!* Photo contest (see ad in this issue). This year's subject will be chimneys. We anticipate the same great

response we have received in previous years and plan to work more closely with the photography/art departments in the local high schools. Details of the contest will be available on the ACO website.

Heritage Highlights

We have now completed ten more Heritage Highlights vignettes, in cooperation with CBC-TV Windsor and the Windsor LACAC. We now have a total of 40 and have received a request from the Windsor Public Library system to provide copies for each of their branches. It is also our plan to develop an educational package for the school boards. The "Highlights" have proven to be very popular and we are getting very positive feedback about them from many people that we didn't realize were interested in our built heritage – the "Highlights" are doing what we wanted them to do!

Doors Open Windsor 2003

With the success of Doors Open Windsor 2002, we are now working on the plans for Doors Open 2003. We had 21 buildings open in 2002, with over 5,000 site visits. This year, we are working with the Town of Amherstburg to

make it a Doors Open weekend in Essex County. Amherstburg will have their event on Saturday, October 4 and Windsor will throw their doors open on Sunday, October 5. We had anticipated some problems with the churches when we changed our day to a Sunday; however, all the churches are very enthusiastic about the event and we will work together to adjust the hours as necessary. We had asked the synagogue to participate this year, but there is a conflict with Yom Kippur. However, they have committed themselves for 2004.

Catholic Churches in Windsor and Essex County

We would like to sincerely thank all the branches and ACO members who sent letters of support and donations in response to our appeal last November. The moral support alone has done wonders for the morale of the SOS committee, and the financial support has been a great help. Thanks to the support of the ACO network and other concerned individuals we are providing considerable assistance to the five individuals who personally accepted the responsibility of undertaking legal action on behalf of SOS-Églises in late October.

Get The Picture!!!

Unique Chimneys

ACO Windsor Region's 5th Annual Photo Contest

With every swing of the wrecking ball our architectural heritage is being destroyed. We are poorer because of this. Breathe a breath of new life into these surviving buildings and give them a renewed respect. Preserve their unique features with photographs.

Use your artistic spirit and enter the ACO Windsor Region Photo contest. Take photos of any chimney in Windsor or Essex County.

If it's smoking, it's a chimney! Look up and create with the art of photography.

This year's deadline is Friday, May 30, 2003. The three categories are Colour, B/W, and Electronic Imaging. The exhibit and reception will be at the Arts Council of Windsor Gallery on Wyandotte Street, June 15-22 – see the ACO website for updated details.

Entries will be judged by a panel of professional photographers and members of the St. Clair Region Society of Architects.

For further information call Rina Guarascio at 981-5158, or e-mail at rina.g@sympatico.ca.
The ACO website is www.hips.com/ACO.



****ACORN 2003 Deadlines****

Summer Issue (no branch reports) - June 1

Fall Issue (includes branch reports) - October 1

Contributors - please mark your calendars now!

Had they not agreed to do this, the St-Joachim church would be a pile of rubble today. The Windsor Region Branch will continue to accept much needed donations on behalf of SOS-Églises.

The first result of the legal action came last November 1: a Superior Court judge temporarily suspended the demolition permit in order to allow the five individuals' lawyers time to prepare their case against the Town of Lakeshore for having improperly declined to grant the church historical designation and for having granted, also improperly, a demolition permit to the Diocese of London to tear the church down. Since the "urgency" of the case was no longer an issue, on December 5 the case was referred to a panel of three judges of the Divisional Court. The opposing lawyers asked to have the demolition permit issue and the heritage question dealt with separately, but the Superior Court judge ruled that the two matters could not be separated. We are still awaiting word as to when and where the case will be heard. Divisional Courts sit in London, Toronto and Ottawa – and the judges have to be bilingual.

Another interesting aspect of this issue is the request for the rezoning of the property for the new church from agricultural to institutional. There was a public meeting at the end of November and the 250 people in attendance were split 80 per cent against rezoning and 20 per cent in favour. Interestingly enough, it wasn't only the supporters of the existing churches that were against the rezoning. There were also several farmers opposing it – people who have tried to sever an acre of their land so one of their children could build a house, and have been refused. Now, the municipal-

ity is being asked to approve severing, and rezoning, of a six acre parcel of unserviced farmland, down the road from a proposed speedway, in order to build a church that is not needed; and, in the process, to allow grievous harm to be done to two of their hamlets. Interesting times. The issue was deferred in November and the next public meeting will be held February 10.

This issue, which we have been involved with for the past two years, is having some very positive repercussions locally. The plight of the Pointe-aux-Roches and St. Joachim communities is being closely followed by all of the media (print, radio and TV), both locally and across the country. St. Joseph's R.C. Church in River Canard, also built by French-Canadian settlers (until recently the village was called Rivière-aux-Canards), has already started restoring their church (hopefully in time for their one hundredth anniversary in 2013), Assumption R.C. Church in Windsor (a designated property and the oldest in the area) is in the process of raising funds for restoration; and St. Mary's R.C. Church in Maidstone (built by Irish settlers) has just announced their plans for restoring their church. The publicity from the Pointe-aux-Roches/St. Joachim issue has made a lot of local parishes really *think* about the value of their historic properties. They want to make sure that they can pass on their legacy to future generations.

In addition to financial assistance, we still need letters of support for the preservation of the churches sent to Bishop Fabbro, especially with the new Divisional Court date looming. They can be sent to: Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, Bishop of London, 1070 Waterloo St.,

London, ON N6A 3Y2, Fax: 519-433-0011, E-mail: bketelaa@rcec.london.on.ca

A copy to pat.malicki@sympatico.ca or faxed to 519-945-2249 would be appreciated.

This issue has proven once again the value of the ACO and its network of branches and supporters. Our thanks to everyone for all your support. It means a lot.

Pat Malicki

Cobourg

Ontario Heritage Act changes

Perhaps the first thing to report from ACO's Cobourg branch is a mood of elation over the advent of changes to the Ontario Heritage Act, which should save some buildings. The ACO branches can thank the provincial ACO for helping to bring about a result that required lobbying beyond the scope of local groups.

Cobourg's Moveable Feast

Preparations for our second "Moveable Feast" fundraiser, scheduled for May 10, 2003, are on track. A new selection of hosts and houses and the same extremely attractive prize of two weeks in a house in France are confirmed. Last year's event was a sell-out and very successful evening – totally dependent on the huge good will, generosity and high standards of the volunteer hosts. It is most encouraging, of course, that ACO Cobourg Branch seems to the community to be worthy of such an effort.

Branch members' handbook

This new publication, which will go to press shortly and be ready for distribution at the Annual General Meeting in March, is a useful compendium of heritage information that should lay to rest forever the question "What does the ACO do?" Items include: "History and Purpose of the ACO," "Scheduled events for 2003," "Architectural heritage

of Cobourg," "Designated buildings and heritage districts," "Cobourg Heritage Fund," "List of Contractors," and "List of heritage books." The branch also publishes a newsletter, a picture postcard for free distribution, and a set of picture notecards featuring historic buildings.

Response to Windsor appeal

Cobourg ACO was pleased to respond to the general appeal from the Windsor Region ACO with a cheque from branch funds. Historic buildings should be defended wherever they are under threat, and ACO mutual help and solidarity in the face of such threats seems a principle worth subscribing to. Can we promote it?

Bill Halewood

Port Hope

There are few, if any, organizations that I have been involved in that operate with the incredible degree of vitality and enthusiasm shown by the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Over the past year, not a month has gone by without a major project being taken on. During the month of January 2003 alone our Board of Directors made motions to donate ten thousand dollars towards the restoration of the north wall of St. Mark's Anglican Church. We voted to pay for the restoration of the 15 upper-floor windows of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, having just completed the restoration of the churches 13 main floor windows late last fall. We also voted to earmark funds for Port Hope's nineteenth century VIA train station and the historically important Capitol Theatre on Queen Street.

As a Branch we were honoured to make a financial contribution towards the legal costs being incurred by the ACO Windsor branch as they fight to save the churches at St. Joachim and Pointe-Aux-Roches. Having witnessed the demolition of the St. Michael's rectory building in Cobourg not so long ago, we understand the uphill battle being waged by our comrades in Windsor against a very

stubborn adversary. It is our belief that the work they have done to save these important buildings will have a lasting, positive impact on the struggle for architectural preservation in Ontario and across the country.

As President, I am also pleased to announce that the Port Hope Branch recently negotiated a deal with the Municipality of Port Hope to save the charming little gardener's cottage in Union Cemetery from the wrecker's ball. Having fallen into disrepair in recent years and requiring upwards of twenty thousand dollars in repairs, the town was not prepared to spend the funds required to keep the cottage standing. The Port Hope Branch Executive agreed to finance the complete restoration of the building's interior and exterior in return for a 25 year, one dollar per year lease. Restoration work will begin in early spring and we invite you to come visit us in our new branch office as of this coming July.

As of February 2003, I will have completed the first year of a two-year term as President of this amazing organization. It has been a wonderful learning experience

made all the more special because of the dedicated and energetic board members that I have had the privilege of working alongside.

Under the direction of Director Heather MacKinnon, plans are now well underway for the Port Hope ACO's spring garden tour, a major fundraiser for this branch. Director Penny Harris, having just wrapped up the most financially successful fall house tour to date, is already working on House Tour 2003 with her dedicated committee. Director of Membership Ann Riddell spends countless hours of volunteer time looking after memberships and annual dues, and Director Will Ryan has just agreed to take on a major "New Membership" campaign. Social Director Helen Strathy makes sure the "wheels stay on the train," be it a party, a presentation or an annual general meeting.

We were all saddened to hear that Director and ACO Properties Manager Tony Holmes was leaving for a seven month jaunt to Africa, but our spirits were lifted when Dr. Ed Pamenter agreed to accept an appointment to the board. Within 48

PreservationWorks!

That's the snappy new title for what was formerly "the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Advisory Board Community Service Program." The Advisory Board is now a team of ACO Preservation Consultants offering their services to the ACO "pro bono publico" on heritage conservation matters.

Administration fees have been restructured and are now as follows:

Not-for-Profit (<i>LACACs, Historical Societies, etc.</i>)	\$250.00
Individual Residence	\$500.00
Corporate (<i>municipality, corporation, etc.</i>)	\$750.00

Apart from the name change and fee structure, the service remains the same, with full details and application procedures on the ACO website. We want to expand our capability to respond to requests more quickly and efficiently. The way to accomplish this is to have a network of consultants spread more evenly across Ontario (rather than one heavily weighted to the south-east, as it is currently). If you are interested in joining the *PreservationWorks!* team, please contact the Co-ordinator, Alan Seymour, Architect, at 416-658-1737 or e-mail: Seymour@seymourarchitect.on.ca

hours, Ed was involved in about 23 dozen ACO projects. We could not pay to have ACO finances looked after as well as they are being managed by Treasurer Mary Trevor.

And for every hour Mary spends organizing our funds, Vice-President Peter Rungay spends another hour looking for heritage properties to spend those funds on. Director and "ACO Matters" Editor Selena Forsyth donates countless hours to the production of our wonderful branch publication, and Past President Sue Stickley's presence at the table assures us that the spirit of A.K. is close by at every meeting. The Port Hope ACO Board would not be complete without the wonderful resource of knowledge that adviser Terry Foord and LACAC liaison Kathryn McHolm bring to the table. A big thanks to you all for a job so very well done.

Blake Holton

London Region

Branch activities

Our Program Committee, chaired by Shirley Gladwell, has been active in preparing and conducting activities. In November, members and guests enjoyed a workshop demonstration on the restoration of stained glass by Lynette Richards. Arthur McLellan, Head of the London Room at the London Public Library, provided an overview about the use of stained glass in London.

London's historic Waverley Lodge, now a retirement home, witnessed our Annual General Meeting on December 18. Nancy Tausky, ACO Member at Large, conducted a tour of the former great home following the business portion of the meeting. In the course of the meeting, Jan Thielenhaus presented a slate of officers for the new council term. Joining ACO London Region Executive are Isadore Segal (Treasurer), Sylvia Chodas and Emmerick Sashegyi (Members at Large).

Upcoming activities include our annual joint meeting with the London and Middlesex Historical Society in February when Hilary Bates Neary will examine the old mills of London and region. On March 25 we are preparing a panel discussion on the politics of heritage when we will bring together representatives of a variety of viewpoints on the issues related to historical preservation.

For the thirtieth consecutive year we host our Geranium Walk Tour on Sunday, June 1, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Always popular, the tour provides ACO with an opportunity to introduce Londoners and visitors to a small portion of the city's built heritage, including an opportunity to view the interiors of several homes whose owners have opened their doors to the public.

London heritage news

In the past two months, two important buildings in London have come under public discussion at the municipal level. London City Council voted to adjust zoning regulations of the property at 530 Ridout Street provided the owner request heritage designation status for the building. It is hoped, through this measure, that the building, an outstanding example of Queen Anne style, will be preserved.

In the same downtown vicinity 660 Talbot Street, known locally as Locust Mount, has received public attention from the Talbot Street Community Association, which has recently complained about the apparent neglect of the house. Originally this building was the residence of a nineteenth century London industrialist and city mayor. More recently it was used as a university fraternity house until it was severely damaged by fire three years ago. Currently the house sits unoccupied and boarded up while legalities related to insurance issues are resolved. On previous occasions ACO London Region has asked the city to take action to protect the building from further decay but the city has seemed unwilling or unable to act.

There may be some signs that the city is becoming a bit more responsive. In the past few days (late January) the city has been in discussion with Paul Lock, the Chair of the Talbot Street Association, regarding Locust Mount. Two areas of concern have been identified for city action, the first a more protective by-law to maintain properties against neglect and, secondly, an examination of zoning regulations to ensure better preservation of highly regarded heritage properties.

She's A Winner!

For the price of a ten dollar ticket, Leah Wallace has won the recent ACO raffle of an all-expense trip for two to Ottawa including travel by Via Rail, accommodation at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, an evening at the National Arts Centre Symphony Orchestra and a guided tour of the Parliament Buildings' restoration project. Leah, a resident of St. Catharines and a Heritage Planner for Niagara-on-the-Lake, is delighted with the raffle results. She and her husband, Robert Miller, are "especially looking forward to the personal tour of the Parliament Buildings." Architectural Conservancy of Ontario President Christopher Borgal, project conservation architect for the 1993-98 restoration of the Centre Block south face, will be conducting the tour.

The ACO wishes to thank the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Via Rail, Christopher Borgal, and the National Arts Centre for fully sponsoring the raffle.



Both issues have drawn attention to weaknesses in the Ontario Heritage Act. Recently, the Act has been changed somewhat, and the Ontario Ministry of Culture has requested submissions regarding further changes. ACO London sent a submission in January. We are in support of some of the changes being made but, in general, would like to see even stronger measures put in place to encourage, or require, municipalities to be more active in preserving important built heritage and natural landscapes. One of our suggestions would reduce the power of the Ontario Municipal Board and encourage greater use of the Conservation Review Board under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage and museum coordinating committee renamed

For the past two years London has had a municipal coordinating committee composed of representatives from the various heritage bodies and public museums. This body has coordinated the allocation of city funds to the heritage and museum sectors, assisted in the organization of joint activities such as the recent Doors Open London, and, in general, supported the marketing of London's cultural heritage. In late January, the organization adopted a new name – Landmarks London – to help give a stronger identity to its activities.

Don Menard

South Bruce-Grey

January 21, 2003 marked a new phase in our branch's development. At the annual general meeting on that date, three new members with varied backgrounds were appointed to the board. One of them is with the committee working to save the Kincardine Pavilion; another belongs to the Hanover Historic Society; and the third comes from Mount Forest, with a degree in Heritage Conservation. We are delighted to expand our base to a larger portion of South Bruce and Grey Counties, and look forward to continued enquiries and interest in the coming year.



Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton

Photo: South Bruce Grey ACO

Two spring events should help to arouse broader awareness. On April 11, 12 and 13 our branch will host the Provincial Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. The focus will be on Town Halls and Market Squares. Current plans involve talks on Walkerville, Cobourg, Blyth and Woodstock, all of which have undergone change in the past few years. Another session will look at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square, which is rumoured to be facing alteration. On that same weekend, the Waterloo Police Chorus will perform in the Opera Hall at Victoria Jubilee Hall.

The ACO's South Bruce Grey Branch is also one of the participants in Brockton Doors Open 2003, set for May 24. Seven buildings have been confirmed, and we hope to add five or six more. Currently, we have the homes of the founders of the Town of Walkerton and the Village of Cargill; the former town hall in Walkerton; an 1880s foundry; a barn and a natural heritage site. We would like to visit the oldest operating furniture factory in Bruce County, a church and several more homes. Please watch our branch web

site (www.bmts.com/~jubilee), where information will be listed as soon as it is known.

The Victoria Jubilee Hall Project is moving forward on Phase 3. The new heating system was started in January and it is taking some time to balance the furnaces, as they are operating differently from the old steam boilers. We hope to have the air conditioning systems installed this spring, and have received some Trillium funding for this work.

In autumn 2002 the Jubilee Garden and Gazebo were major additions to the grounds, and will be maintained with the help of a corporate sponsorship. In late 2002 we added a new sign, which features Victoria Jubilee Hall and allows us to display information on upcoming events at the Opera Hall. The sign was designed by a local artist who has worked hard on behalf of Victoria Jubilee Hall. It fits well with both the Hall and Jubilee Garden, and has received many favourable comments.

The 2002-2003 concert series has been another success. The performance



Henry Cargill House, Cargill, Bruce County

Photo: T. Wegg Photography

on May 8 by Buddy Wasisname and the Other Fellers is already sold out.

Christmas in the Hall went well. The CBC Reading of A Christmas Carol was even better attended than last year, and may become a local tradition. The ntario Ballet Theatre's presentation of The Nutcracker was also very successful, despite a snow storm.

Planning is underway for performances in 2003-2004. The new air conditioning will allow performances to be held even in warmer months of the year. It is hoped that interest will continue to grow, and that we will be able to provide a greater variety of programming.

**Henry Simpson &
Mary Robinson Ramsay**

Quinte

2002 was a good year for our branch in regards to our third Sunday walking tours. The tours were interesting and well attended by our members (about 40-50 people per tour). I

would like to thank all the people who worked so hard to make them a success. Special thanks to those who stepped in to do walks while I was recovering from heart surgery.

2003 marks the 20th Anniversary of our branch. At our AGM in January we had Chris Borgal as our guest speaker. We are indoors for the next two months, with several videos. On February 16 we will be watching a video on Chicago parks, and Mr. Doug Moses, director of Belleville Parks, will speak on what is happening with that city's park system. On March 16 we are seeing a video on St. Anne's Church, Toronto, and Heather Reilly, Co-Chair of the Citizens for Downtown Belleville, will report on the ACO's annual general meeting last year in Perth.

We will be outdoors for the rest of the year. The following tours have been planned:

April 20 – Queen's University
May 18 – West Dundas Street (Belleville)
June 15 – Wellesley Island
July 20 – Napanee
August 17 – Royal Road (Prince Edward County)

September 21 – Hay Bay and Adolphustown

October 19 – Morrison Point/Black Creek (Prince Edward County)

November 16 – Parkwood Estate

If you are interested in attending any of these tours please contact me at (613) 968-7605.

In 2002 our branch helped seven requests for financial assistance (six local and one out-of-province) by donating \$1,850 from our Heritage Fund. These requests were from Macauley House (Picton), the Wellington Library, Proctor House (Brighton), Glenwood Cemetery (Picton), the Mariner's Museum (Port Milford), St. John's Anglican Church (Nova Scotia) and SS#23 or the Mapleview Community Centre (Frankford). We are also supporting the HASPE project with funding of \$500. For 2003 our branch has set a budget of \$2,000 that will be available for assisting local projects.

We have a full slate of officers on the executive committee for 2003. I would like to thank Tony Darling (who is retiring as membership chair) for the excellent job he did on all our behalf. Evelyn Sloan has volunteered to take on this position for the coming year. Harold Moss, another of our members, has volunteered to help prepare the envelopes for sending out the walking tour flyers. Dan and Cathy Atkinson did this last year and I would like to thank them for all their efforts.

Our executive committee meets four times a year, usually on a Sunday morning, and the meeting is followed by an excellent pot-luck lunch. Over the years we have found that the pot-luck is an excellent incentive to get members to attend the executive meetings. If you like to eat, this makes any job on the executive most worthwhile... it's almost as good as getting paid... almost.

I hope that some of you will join us on our walks this year!

David Bentley

Hamilton Region

2002 was a year of lows and highs for the Hamilton Region Branch.

Loss of past executive member

The low point was the loss of past member Elissa Siroonian, who passed away in January at the age of 38. In the words of former branch executive member David Cuming, "During the 1980s, along with myself and Ann (Gillespie), she greatly assisted in managing to keep the ACO ticking over." Back in 1994, Elissa recounted to me how the branch had hosted several events, including the presentation of awards for exemplary architectural conservation and rehabilitation projects and a Home Restoration Workshop at the Hamilton Public Library, which was well attended by local homeowners and professionals. Elissa was instrumental in getting a fresh crop of volunteers to take over in 1996 and breath some new life into the branch. She is sadly missed by family, friends, professional associates and those with whom she came into contact while involved with the ACO.

Tours, exhibition and lecture

The five scheduled tours, lecture, and exhibition were all high points of the year. The total number of attendees was

estimated to be around 600 for four walking tours (Mansions of the Durand, Downtown Core and Gore Park, Historic Ancaster and Dundas Industrial Walk) and one double decker bus tour (Hamilton's Industrial Trail). You can take a virtual tour of the complete industrial trail by visiting the website of the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre (www.web.net/~owahe), link to "Industrial Hamilton: A Trail to the Future."

What has become an annual event for our branch, an exhibition and accompanying lecture, brought more of Hamilton's rich architectural heritage to a wide spectrum of visitors to the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Gallery has been a strong supporter of our activities since 1998, collaborating with us to date on the mounting of five exhibits in its Community Gallery. Our 2002 exhibit, "Hamilton Gothic: Gothic Architecture in Hamilton, 1840-1950," presented a selection of nineteenth and twentieth century Gothic Revival structures located in Hamilton. The illustrated lecture by York University professor Malcolm Thurlby, "Nineteenth Century Gothic: The Architecture of Joseph Connolly," was given to a full house in the Community Gallery theatre. Professor Thurlby effectively linked Connolly's work in Ontario to his European source prototypes.

Website

To cap the year we finally launched our website! ARCHITECTURE HAMILTON, is a joint effort between our branch and the Hamilton and Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA). You will find it at www.architecturehamilton.com. By this means we hope to inform ACO and BSA members, as well as the public at large, of our current and upcoming events. Several of our past exhibitions will also be described and illustrated on-line, thereby enabling us to share various aspects of Hamilton's built heritage with a wide audience.

Rob Hamilton

A Dream Realized!

Herb Hastings

Rich Hill United Church, located at R.R. #4, Tottenham, Ontario, is a brick masonry church built in 1888 by a Methodist congregation. It became the United Church in 1925.

In 1928 a severe storm blew off the church spire and part of the brick tower. As money was scarce at that time the tower was simply covered over with an extension of the church roof.



Heritage Cambridge House Tour

Saturday, May 3, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit 8 locations throughout Cambridge & North Dumfries

Tickets: \$20.00 per person – includes light refreshments and an opportunity to win a draw prize

For ticket information call 519-621-8588

The idea of restoring what had been lost decades before first came up at an 1988 centennial meeting. Then in 1999, after many years of discussion, the project of replacing 11 feet of brick tower and the forty foot spire was given the green light by the congregation.

In February 2000, the Trustees of Rich Hill United requested the Town of New Tecumseth take the necessary steps to designate the outside of the church under the Ontario Heritage Act. The designation was granted in the fall of 2001.

In June 2000, Rich Hill approached the ACO and made application to the Advisory Board for advice on the steeple project. The Board contacted Mr. Eric Jokinen of Jokinen Engineering Services of Burlington, Ontario, who agreed to undertake the structural analysis of the church to determine whether a replacement spire could be supported.

In October 2000, Mr. Jokinen's report stated that the reconstruction of the spire to its original form appeared to be completely feasible. Mr. Jokinen also made a proposal for engineering services

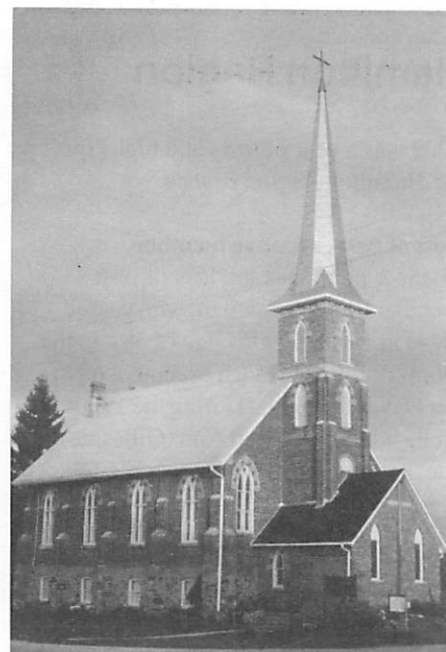
appearance of the tower and spire. The original spire was sheet metal roofing on wooden boards on a heavy timber frame. There were wooden corbels under the spire soffit and a weather vane topped the spire. In order to keep future maintenance low, it was decided to use a spire constructed of steel and covered with lead covered copper. The corbelling under the soffit was made of brick and a stainless steel cross was installed on the top.

When the church was originally built in 1888, much of the work was done freely by members of the congregation. Happily, this approach was still possible in 2001. For example, extensive work was done to protect the vestibule roof, the lobby interior and front steps from damage during construction, at no cost to the church. As the spire was built eight miles from the church at Durabody and Trailer Ltd., shipping to the site would be necessary. To keep shipping costs of the 40 foot spire at a minimum and add a real country flavour to the project, wheels were installed on the spire base and it was towed the eight miles by a donated tractor. The windows and window sills were handcrafted by church members and donated. Countless hours were given for project management, brick transportation, mortar mixing, painting and cleanup.

When the project began in July 2001 the total required funding had been raised by church members, church neighbours, friends and relatives.

The project was completed by August and a Dedication Service was held in September 2001 with a full house.

A beautiful addition to our small country church has restored its original appearance and let the community know we are alive and well.



Rich Hill United Church
after restoration

Photo: Herb Hastings

New Publisher for York County Mouldings

After a successful inaugural year the Architectural Conservancy's publication, *York County Mouldings*, will now be published by Lee Valley Tools, the book's major retailer. *York County Mouldings*, researched and produced by George W.J. Duncan, has received numerous reviews and accolades. Through carefully detailed drawings of mouldings and trim found locally in York County, the book gives to the artisan and architect of today the "blueprint" for recreating the joiner's art of the nineteenth century.

The sales and popular success of *York County Mouldings* is a compliment to the author and to the Architectural Conservancy as well as an enduring contribution to heritage literature. This volume will continue to be available by calling the Conservancy office at 416-367-8075. If you have not purchased your copy, call us today or visit Lee Valley Tools.



Rich Hill United Church before restoration

Photo: Herb Hastings

to reconstruct the spire, which was accepted by Rich Hill Board members.

In 2000 and spring of 2001, many meetings were held regarding design, materials to be used, contract time schedules and fundraising. It was decided to use modern techniques and materials to mirror as closely as possible the original

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